

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 261728Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UG, GW

SUBJECT: FRG EMBASSY REPORTS UNREST IN UGANDA

1. THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US A COPY OF A MESSAGE FROM ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA WHICH REPORTS SIGNS OF POSSIBLE UNREST IN UGANDA. THE MESSAGE IS DATED JANUARY 20.

2. BEGIN TEXT

EVENTS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS SUGGEST THAT INTERNAL CONDITIONS ARE UNSTABLE. THE CRASH OF AN ARMY HELICOPTER ON JANUARY 13, WITH FIVE DEAD, DURING THE STATE VISIT OF MOBUTU WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS AN ACCIDENT, BUT ARSON IN THE SUGARCANE FIELDS IN THE REGION OF MASINDI ON JANUARY 17 AND THE STRONG REACTION OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO ORDERED THE ARMY TO EXECUTE, WITHOUT TRIAL, THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN FURTHER ACTS OF SABOTAGE, HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS RESISTANCE TO THE REGIME.

3. SUSPICIONS WERE STRENGTHENED WHEN THREE YOUNG CAPTAINS WERE APPOINTED GOVERNORS- AND WHEN FOUR
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OTHER GOVERNORS, ALL MILITARY OFFICERS, WERE TRANS-

FERRED TO NEW POSTS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT AN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN BECAME GOVERNOR OF THE IMPORTANT CENTRAL PROVINCE, AND MAJOR NASUR, WHO HAS A REPUTATION FOR RUTHLESSNESS, TOOK OVER THE PROVINCE OF KARAMOJA WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS RESTLESSNESS. THE NEW GOVERNORS RECEIVED FULL AUTHORITY TO ACT FOR THE PRESIDENT.

4. CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMIN'S TAKEOVER OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY PLANNED, FOR SEVERAL LOCATIONS WERE TRANSFERRED TO KAMPALA. BUT IT IS NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN IF TRANSFERS WERE MADE FOR REASONS OF SECURITY. THE PROGRAM FOR THE CELEBRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

5. WHETHER THESE INCIDENTS INDICATE A GENUINE CRISIS OR ARE COINCIDENCES, THE EMBASSY CANNOT JUDGE.

6. IT IS CERTAIN THAT DISSATISFACTION OVER THE LACK OF NECESSARY FOODSTUFFS (MEAT, SUGAR, SALT, MILK AND FLOUR) AND THE EXORBITANT PRICES OF OTHER GOODS HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. THE RECOGNITION OF AMIN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU IS OF LITTLE INTEREST AND DOES NOT COMPENSATE FOR DISAPPOINTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, AMIN CAN PROBABLY SEE THE CRISIS THROUGH, AS LONG AS THE ARMY IS BEHIND HIM.

ELLERKMANN
HILLENBRAND

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